STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION DIVISION OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR E. COLI IN PIGEON RIVER WATERSHED (HUC 06010106), TENNESSEE

Announcement is hereby given of the availability of Tennessee's proposed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for E. coli in the Pigeon River watershed, located in eastern Tennessee. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to develop TMDLs for waters on their impaired waters list. TMDLs must determine the allowable pollutant load that the water can assimilate, allocate that load among the various point and nonpoint sources, include a margin of safety, and address seasonality.

A number of waterbodies in the Pigeon River watershed are listed on Tennessee's Final 2008 303(d) list as not supporting designated use classifications due, in part, to discharge of pathogens from MS4 areas and pasture land. The TMDL utilizes Tennessee's general water quality criteria, continuous flow data from a USGS discharge monitoring station located in proximity to the watershed, site specific water quality monitoring data, a calibrated hydrologic model, load duration curves, and an appropriate Margin of Safety (MOS) to establish allowable loadings of pathogens which will result in the reduced in-stream concentrations and attainment of water quality standards. The TMDL requires reductions of pathogen loading on the order of 42-95% in the listed waterbodies.

INFORMATION: TMDL Document and Appendices (requires Adobe Reader)

Technical questions regarding this TMDL should be directed to the following members of the Division of Water Pollution Control staff:

Vicki S. Steed, P.E., Watershed Management Section Telephone: 615-532-0707

Sherry H. Wang, Ph.D., Watershed Management Section Telephone: 615-532-0656

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed TMDLs are invited to submit their comments in writing no later than March 16, 2009 to:

Division of Water Pollution Control Watershed Management Section 7th Floor, L & C Annex 401 Church Street Nashville, TN 37243-1534

All comments received prior to that date will be considered when revising the TMDL for final submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The TMDL and supporting information are on file at the Division of Water Pollution Control, 6th Floor, L & C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee. They may be inspected during normal office hours. Copies of the information on file are available on request.